

Getting at the Truth of Christian Head Covering

Is it for today? Is it symbolic? Is it the hair? Was it cultural? Was it just for Corinth? Was it for back then, but not for now? Is it relevant?



But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. –1 Corinthians 11:5-6

Written by Candy Brauer

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Provided below is the main Scripture used for this book. The headcovering passage is 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, however, we are also looking at context, and at a container that encloses the headcovering passage; what is before, and what is after.

Please take the time to carefully read the below Scripture passage, and reference it regularly as you read this book.

1 Corinthians 10:16-11:34

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

18 Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

19 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?

20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

25 Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake:

26 For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

27 If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

28 But if any man say unto you, this is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof:

29 Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?

30 For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?

31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8 For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man.

9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

17 Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.

18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

20 When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

21 For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? what shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

34 And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

What is the Christian Headcovering – Differing Views

There are many views to what 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 means. While there are six main views, they come from two main, separate camps.

Camp One – They take the Bible literally, and believe in Sola Scriptura – The Scriptures themselves, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is all a Christian needs.

Camp Two – They may or may not claim Sola Scriptura, but they certainly are not Sola Scriptura, because they cling to hermeneutics, which often leads to interpreting the Bible other than literally, and going to history, culture, and authorities/experts in assisting them to interpret certain, most, or all Scriptures.

There are multiple views of the above-mentioned passage of Scripture in question, and some views fall into one, or either camps. The six common views are the below:

View One – The head covering is literal, is for today, and should be practiced

View Two – A woman's long hair is her head covering, given to her by nature

View Three – The husband is the woman's spiritual head, and when she submits to him, she is spiritually and symbolically covered on her head, with no physical, visual covering required

View Four – The head covering was literal, and used to be practiced, but it is not for today, or it was only for the church in Corinth, and not for everyone

View Five – It doesn't matter if a Christian woman chooses to head cover, or not. The passage is about honoring your spiritual head, and does not say you (she) has to have a cloth on your (her) head. The whole passage is spiritual and symbolic, and not at all literal.

View Six – The literal head covering is to be practiced, or not. Paul left it up to us to decide for ourselves, and to go with our conscience on the issue.

Which View and Camp is Correct?

If you become a Christian, you need to know what that is, and how a Christian is to live. You need to know proper doctrine. Else, how do you even know what a Christian is, or how to become one? Would there even be a such thing as Christianity? Or, would every person have their own, personal definition of it, which could differ widely from neighbors who call themselves a Christian?

Without a hard, nailed down definition of what a Christian is, there can't be Christianity. It would simply be a liquid label, but nothing tangible, or real. There are people who call themselves "Christians," but are not. My husband and I worked with a real estate agent once, who called himself a Christian, but he believed in evolution, and didn't believe in Jesus. He called himself a "Christian," because he thought he was a good person. The ending to this true story is a good one. My husband and I showed him what a Christian is, according the Bible, and he got saved, and became a real Christian. Praise God!

If a person attends church every Sunday, and lives a good life, does that make them a Christian? No. Just look at the word – "Christian." CHRISTian. "Christ" is in the beginning of the word, and He is in the center of Christianity.

How does a person who wants to follow Christ know how to follow Christ? Do they learn it from church, and from more experienced Christians? If so, how do they determine which friends and churches are correct? There are many differing opinions and doctrines.

Does the person decide to go off of what they feel is the correct church and authority? If so, then what about all the other people in the world who also decided to go off of what they feel, and came to a different conclusion? Who is correct, and who is not? Obviously, we need something more concrete than just feeling.

What's true is true, regardless of if we feel it is, or not. Up is up, and down is down. If you jump off of a high bridge, the results may not be good. If a bullet hits you, the results will probably not be enjoyable. We breathe air, try not breathing it, and see how long you make it. You can try to alter your

truth and reality all you want, but you'll still eventually suffocate, unless you take that next breath of air.

If you believe that truth is relative, then how do you determine what truths are relative, and what truths are not? Certainly it's impossible for all truth to be relative, as briefly demonstrated in the paragraph above.

All this boils down to, that there is truth, and we need a measuring stick to measure things against, to find out what is true, and what isn't. Would God really leave us flapping in the wind, not knowing what's really true, and having no way to find out? Absolutely not!

We have the Holy Bible, and it is given to everyone who will pick it up and read it. Some people argue that in times past, people didn't have access to the Scriptures, so how could they read the Bible? I posit to you that our God is more powerful than any dark age, and He can bring His Word to anyone who truly seeks it. I've read about it happening so much in the history of many favorite faith heroes of old. Don't limit God, please.

The Bible is the measuring stick we use to measure truth from lie, and good from bad. Perhaps you agree with me here. After all, the Bible does say:

Thou shalt do no murder -Matthew 19:18b

Assuming you agree with the above, and consider it a true teaching, and right, then consider why you think this. Is it because the Word of God says it, or is it because it's what society believes?

The Bible also says:

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. -Exodus 20:16

Is the above truth, because the Bible says it, or because you could get into trouble, lose friends, or even go to jail for fraud if you bear false witness? Again, is this true because the Bible says it, or because of what society believes?

What about cultural beliefs of different times and locales? Does that have any bearing on the Scriptures?

What about this?

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. –1 Corinthians 11:24-26

The above is describing the Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper. Most churches and Christians seem to agree that we are still to partake of Communion. After all, the above says we are to "til he come." Jesus hasn't come back, yet. If you are a Christian and you partake of Communion, do you do so because your church teaches you to, or because the Bible says it? Is the above passage relevant for today, and our culture? Yes, because it says we are to do Communion to show the Lord's death until He comes back.

Why do we call it Communion? Is it a societal truth, or a Bible one? Let's see:

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 10:16

What do you think?

The point of this little discourse, is to make you consider. Do you believe what you believe about Christianity and its doctrines because of what others tell you, or because of societal/cultural norms? Or, do you get your doctrine from the measuring stick for truth – the Bible? Be honest with yourself, and see where you really stand. Think for a moment before you read further, and then take the below test...

TEST:

Assumption – Let's assume you are a born again Christian who partakes of Communion in your church regularly. You know and see that Communion is Scriptural – it is clearly taught in the Bible. You also see that all Christians are to do this until Christ comes back, as per the above Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 10:16 through to the end of the chapter discusses Communion, and partaking of it properly, and it then goes into idolatry.

1 Corinthians 11:1-16 tells us about the Christian head covering.

1 Corinthians 11:17 through to the end of the chapter again discusses Communion.

Remember our assumption, as I can't write this book for everyone – “You know and see that Communion is Scriptural – it is clearly taught in the Bible. You also see that all Christians are to do this until Christ comes back, as per the above Scriptures.”

You agree that Communion is for today, and for all cultures with Christians. What about the Christian head covering? Is it for today, and for our culture? If you said “no,” then you are inconsistent, and are taking your cues of truth from society – majority thought, rather than from the Word of God.

We have a sandwich here:

- 1) 1 Corinthians 10 teaches about Communion and idolatry.
- 2) 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 teaches the head covering
- 3) 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 teaches Communion again

If the head covering is not for today, or was only for the Corinthian culture, then why isn't Communion the same? Where in the Scriptures does it say Communion is for us, but the head covering no longer is? It doesn't say that.

If the head covering was only for the Corinthians, then so is Communion, but we know that is not so, because we see the Lord's Supper taught in other Scriptures outside of Corinthians as well.

If the head covering is not for today, then why is it sandwiched between two Communion/Lord's Supper Scriptures which are still for today?

All of the Epistles are written to all Christians. They just bear the name of the specific church (or person) they were sent to, and then that church (or person) copied the Epistles, and sent them out to other churches. Taking this

further, however, 1 Corinthians specifically tells us that it is for all Christians, and not just those in Corinth:

*Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that **in every place** call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's -1 Corinthians 1:2*

The camp that says that the Bible is not to be taken literal is building their foundation on sinking sand. This camp often believes that while Communion is for today, the head covering is not, or is not literal, but symbolic of honor, and nothing more. However, no where in 1 Corinthians 11 does it change gears from symbolic to literal, or from ‘that was for then, not now.’

Those who believe the Bible is not literal are pickers and choosers. They pick and choose which Scriptures are literal, and which should not be taken seriously. While they’ll largely go with Communion, they usually don’t seem to go with the head covering, which is sandwiched right there between two Communion passages.

These pickers and choosers are likely doing this with no conscious thought of it. They are following the majority belief, and since the majority no longer (the majority used to) practices the head covering, it therefore must not be literal.

If you thought you were Sola Scriptura, but you believe in Communion, but not in the head covering, then you have fooled yourself.

Perhaps you disagree with me, if you feel I’ve labeled you in the above statement. Perhaps you believe in the head covering, but you believe the passage in question isn’t describing a physical covering on top of the head. Perhaps you adhere to views two, three, or six mentioned earlier in this book. Views four and five have just been made invalid.

You are now left with four views remaining:

View One – The head covering is literal, is for today, and should be practiced

View Two – A woman's long hair is her head covering, given to her by nature

View Three – The husband is the woman's spiritual head, and when she submits to him, she is spiritually and symbolically covered on her head, with no physical, visual covering required

View Six – The head covering is to be practiced, or not. Paul left it up to us to decide for ourselves, and go with our conscience on the issue.

Logically, to be consistent, we must take the Word of God at what it says. The head covering Scriptures are sandwiched between two Scriptures telling us about partaking of the Communion. Since Communion is for today and every Christian culture, so then must be the head covering. That is all we have left to do, is find out *what* the head covering is.

We need to be very honest in our study of the word of God, even if it gives us information we were not expecting, or may not like. We also need to be honest with ourselves. We must regularly ask ourselves if we cling to certain beliefs because that's what we've been taught, and we are comfortable with them, or because it's *actually* what's true.

We are to worship the Lord in spirit and in TRUTH, so finding out the TRUTH about the Christian head covering is something that must be done.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. –John 4:24

But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. –1 Corinthians 11:5-6

Before we narrow down the remaining views, let us conclude this section with some Scriptures of warning, to those who are not using the Bible as their measuring stick of truth:

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing

thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. – Hosea 4:6

*Who will have all men to be saved, **and** to come unto the knowledge of the truth. -1 Timothy 2:4*

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little -Isaiah 28:9-10

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. –2 Timothy 2:15

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. –2 Timothy 3:15-17

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. –Psalm 119:105

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. –John 5:39

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. –Acts 17:11

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. –Hebrews 4:12

The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. –Psalm 12:6-7

Bringing it Down to the Remaining View

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. –1 Corinthians 11:3

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. –Ephesians 5:22-23

It is clear from the above two verses that the head being spoken of is authority. If the “head” spoken of through all of 1 Corinthians chapter 11, verses 2 through 16, is referring to authority, then the position of the head covering only being symbolic of wifely submission, and not literal, has serious merit.

Let’s take a look. Please look back at the long section of Scripture I provided at the beginning of this book. Here’s what I see:

Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. 1 Corinthians 11:4

If the head in this passage is referring to just authority, then how does a man make sure his head isn’t covered, so that he doesn’t dishonor Christ? However, if the head covering is a literal covering on the head, then the above makes sense. This would mean that there are two types of heads in 1 Corinthians 11 – head → authority, and head → physical head.

Both of the heads are presented in the above verse. If a man covers his physical head, then he dishonors his spiritual head, which we know to be Christ, from verse 3.

Let us look at a few more verses to see if this is feasible...

But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. 1 Corinthians 11:5-6

Now we have confirmation of the two types of heads – authority, and physical head. Therefore, wifely submission alone is not the symbolic head covering. The head covering must be something else. The above tells us that if the woman does not cover her physical head, then she dishonors her authoritative head → her husband (see verse 3). If the woman does not cover her head, then the above says to “let her also be shorn.” Here we see that a woman’s long hair must not be her covering, else the word “also” wouldn’t be there.

Why is a woman to cover her head, but a man is not?

For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. 1 Corinthians 11:7-10

- 1) Man is not to wear a head covering, because he is the image and glory of God.
- 2) Woman is to cover, because she is the glory of man (but still the image of God. See Genesis 1:27)
- 3) Woman came from man. We read in Genesis that woman was created to be man’s helpmeet, and Eve was made from Adam’s side – his rib. We are to come to the sides of our husbands, and be their helpmeets.
- 4) Woman was created for man. See the above 3, and also Genesis 2:18-25.
- 5) “For this cause,” or ‘for this reason’ the woman is to have “power” on her head. The King James Translators gave a note of clarity on this passage, in the margin. They said “That is, a covering, in sign that she is under the power of her husband.” When a wife covers her head, she has power on her head, because it shows the angels who are watching, that she is under the authority of her husband. The angels look down, and see the covering - both the good and bad angels see this, and in the spiritual realm, this seems to be very important.

Clearly, the Scriptures show us that a woman’s submission to her husband includes her physically covering her head, else she brings spiritual dishonor to her husband.

Some people agree with this, but they believe the head covering is long hair. They base this belief off of the following verse:

But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. –1 Corinthians 11:15

This is the verse that tripped me up, for years. I was saved for 14 years before I began practicing the head covering. You see, I'm serious about studying the Word of God, so I've read the Scriptures over and over, often multiple times per year, since the year 1995. I am still reading the Bible cover to cover, over and over. Every time I read it, I dig deeper, and I learn more.

Well, every time I would read 1 Corinthians 11, I would become convicted about the head covering. For the first few times through the Bible, I didn't know what a head covering could possibly look like. I'd never heard of anyone doing so, and I'd never seen it, that I could recall.

Later, I learned of the Amish and Mennonites, and saw that they covered their heads. I finally saw an example of head covering, but I was still convinced that long hair should be the covering, because of verse 15. Except – I was never positive, because the following thoughts would trip me up every time I read 1 Corinthians 11:

- Do I believe the head covering is not a physical covering on top of the hair, because I don't know anyone who does cover?
- If long hair is the woman's head covering, then why does Paul take the time of discussing a woman covering her head with something, obviously other than hair (see verses 5 and 6), but then towards the end of the passage, he basically says "Never mind. If you have long hair, then you're good." Why discuss putting a covering on the head, if the conclusion is it is just long hair? Why even mention a covering?

Every time I used to read the passage in question, I would get scared, because it is obvious a woman is supposed to cover her head, but then I'd get to verse 15, and I would cling to it so hard. Okay, my long hair works – thank goodness. Or so I'd tell myself, while trying to ignore the several verses preceding verse 15.

At a cursory view, one could conclude that long hair is the covering, but if we are honest in our reading, then we see that we need to study this, first, because this view could be wrong, and I posit that it is, and that I can clearly show this to you.

Why Hair Cannot be THE Covering, and how to Judge if Head Covering Should be Practiced

But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. 1 Corinthians 11:15

The woman is the glory of the man, and woman is told to cover her head:

For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. 1 Corinthians 11:7

Woman is to cover, and it can't be her hair, because the below Scriptures tell us the covering is in addition to the hair:

*But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her **also** be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. –1 Corinthians 11:5-6*

The above clearly says that if a woman does not have a head covering on, then let her **also** be shorn. If the head covering were the hair, then you'd have to read the above as basically saying – 'if the woman's hair be not long, let her **also** have short hair.' Here's the thing: that makes no sense. If your hair isn't long, then it is already cut short or shaved off – obviously. This is why the above says "if the woman be not covered, let her **ALSO** be shorn."

It also says "but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." We know it is a shame, because verse 15 says woman's long hair is a glory to her. The glory to the man is the woman, therefore the woman covers her head. The woman's long hair is a glory to her, therefore she is to keep it long.

When I thought long hair was the head covering, I ran into something that stopped me right in my tracks. I looked at the passage in the Greek.

Guess what? The Greek for the word "covering" in verse 15 is an entirely different word than the Greek used for the word translated as 'cover' through the rest of the chapter. This is interesting, and obviously means

something. A different Greek word being used here means there is a distinction to be noticed. I then looked at what the Greek was for these words, and here's what I found:

The Greek word used for 'cover,' 'covered,' and 'uncover,' etc. in the chapter *except for in verse 15* are variations of the Greek word *katakalyptō*, which means "to cover up."

The Greek word used for "covering" in verse 15 is *peribolaion*, which means "a covering thrown around, a wrapper or veil."

Why did Paul switch to a different Greek word, when describing hair being a covering, in verse 15? Because verse 15 says hair is "a covering." Long hair is a covering, given by nature to women, which wraps around like a veil, giving her a natural covering, and is a natural example of *the* covering. (see verses 5 and 6)

This wasn't enough to convince me yet. But there's more...

Verse 13 asks us a question. It says:

Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? -
1 Corinthians 11:13

It's asking us to judge for ourselves if it seems proper for a woman to be uncovered. If we just honestly read the preceding verses, we'd judge – "no, it is not proper, or comely for a woman to pray uncovered."

This question is part of Paul's writing style. He gives the answer before asking the question, and the expected answer to the question put forth is supposed to be already known. It helps the lesson sink in for us. To give you an example of this, here is another place (of many) where Paul does this:

For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have

dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. -Romans 6:10-15

Notice Paul answered the above question already, when he said “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God.” He then asks the question, which he already gave an answer to, then he gives the straight answer after the question, which is “God forbid.”

Paul follows a similar answer and question pattern when he put forth the inquiry of “is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?” in 1 Corinthians 11:13.

Paul already gave the answer to that question in the verses preceding it. We are supposed to see his point, and answer that it is not comely for a woman to pray uncovered, because that’s what the preceding verses teach. Such as:

But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. –1 Corinthians 11:5

Like in the answer → question → answer example above in Romans 6:10-15, Paul has a similar format here in 1 Corinthians 11. He asks the covering question in verse 13, but already gave the answer before then. He then gives the answer again, after verse 13, as you’ll see.

The two verses after verse 13 are *parenthetical verses*, giving us an example in nature, to help us see the correct conclusion.

Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. –1 Corinthians 11:14-15

Male pattern baldness is more common in men than women, thus the name. It is natural for women to have long hair, and for men to have short – especially when we think of pattern baldness, receding hairlines, etc.

Notice the above Bible passage says “EVEN nature...teach you.” Even? In other words, it is now going to help you judge correctly about the headcovering, by giving you an example in nature – *even* in nature, we see a natural covering on women’s heads – long hair.

Verse 16 then gives the answer to verse 13, after giving us the nature example in the parenthetical verses of 14 and 15. Here’s the answer:

But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God. –1 Corinthians 11:16

Here, let’s make it simpler. Let us remove the parenthetical verses, so that we can see the question and answer together:

Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God. –1 Corinthians 11:13 and 16.

No Such Custom

There is no such custom of women being uncovered. How is a woman being uncovered a custom? Well, Jewish women, and many Greek and Roman women had their heads veiled at all times. It was the norm. Since covering their heads was considered “normal,” then a woman not having her head covered could be considered a new custom, because it was not the norm.

In the Old Testament, women covered their heads. It wasn't a command. You won't find any commandment in the Old Testament, telling women to cover their heads. They just did. Jewish men often would put something over their heads, at certain times, as well. In some Jewish cultures today, you can find women with scarves on, and men with Jewish caps on. They are both head covering.

While headcovering was not a commandment in the Old Testament, it was a custom:

And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. –Leviticus 13:45

And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up. –2 Samuel 15:30

Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. –Isaiah 47:2

The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me. –Song of Solomon 5:7

For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself. –Genesis 24:65

Also he said, Bring the vail that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city. –Ruth 3:15

There was no Old Testament command for men and women to cover their heads, but they often did. Why? I think we can get that answer, in light of having the New Testament. Now, we are under the New Covenant, and we have Christ as our mediator between God and man.

Under the Old Covenant, there was no perfect mediator. Man had to go through priests who were also fallen humans. Now that Christ has come, He is the perfect High Priest, and our Mediator to God.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. –Hebrews 4:14-16

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus -1 Timothy 2:5

When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain, dividing and covering the way to the Holy of Holies was torn, because now, through Christ, we have direct access to God. We no longer have to go through any earthly priests.

And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God. –Mark 15:37-39

Under the Old Covenant, the authoritative order would have been something like this: God, priest, husband, wife. Now, under the New Covenant, the authoritative order is: God, Christ, husband, wife.

Paul tells men in the New Testament that they are not to cover their heads, because that would dishonor their authoritative head, which is Christ. Christ is the perfect mediator between man and God. Man does not need to cover his physical head.

Under the New Testament, women are commanded to cover their heads, because they are under the authoritative headship of their husbands. Women were under their husbands in both Testaments, but covering was only a custom in the Old Testament. It is a command in the New Testament.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. – Ephesians 5:23-24

If you look at the grammar of the Hebrew and Greek for “God” and “Christ,” you’ll find they are masculine nouns. If you look up the Greek grammar for “church,” you’ll find it is a feminine noun. This is no accident. The husband symbolizes Christ, and the wife symbolizes the church. In the Old Testament, often both men and women covered their heads. Under the New Testament, the woman symbolizes the church, therefore she is to still cover her head, but the husband symbolizes Christ, so he is not to cover his head.

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. –1 Corinthians 11:3-9

As you can see, the custom before Christ was for women to cover their heads. It would have started a new custom to have women not covering their heads.

Under the Old Testament, head covering was a custom. Under the New Testament, it’s a command, and possibly an ordinance. Think about it, the same chapter gives the Lord’s Supper ordinance.

Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. –1 Corinthians 11:2

What was the Practice of Earlier Churches?

I'm not one for looking to other churches, modern or early, for the truth. I like to turn to the Bible. However, in this case, turning to some earlier church teachings helps to support the head covering practice, and if nothing else, is interesting.

From the 1599 Geneva Bible notes:

And in like sort he concludeth, that women which show themselves in public and ecclesiastical assemblies without the sign and token on their subjection, that is to say, uncovered, shame themselves.

From the Matthew Henry Commentary (also in the Matthew Henry Study Bible):

That is, a veil, the token of her not having the power of superiority, but being under the power of her husband, subjected to him. Rebekah, when she met Isaac and was delivering herself into his possession put on her veil in token of her subjection.

From the King James Translator's notes:

That is, a covering, in sign that she is under the power of her husband.

While the head covering practice is sadly no longer common today, there are still those who teach it. There are even some modern day study Bibles that embrace the covering. Below is one example...

From the Ryrie Study Bible:

(Note on verse 15's word "covering") This is not the same word as that used in verses 5-6. The point here is that as the hair represents the proper covering in the natural realm, so the veil is the proper covering in the religious.

The Dake Study Bible, and the Common Man's Reference Bible both have notes that also lean towards head covering.

It used to be common to walk into just about any Christian church, and see most of the women veiled or in hats.

What happened?

In came the feminist movement of the 1960s, and out went head covering, modest dressing, submitting to one's husband, and more.

If head covering was the norm from the beginning of the Christian church, until the 1960s, then either they were wrong that whole time, or most of today's churches are incorrect, and the head covering should still be practiced.

I know the answer. Do you?

A Few Head Covering Testimonies

Barbara's Headcovering Testimony:

The first time I ever encountered women covering was when I was about 14. I saw them in a small town we were living in, in Georgia. I was immediately drawn to them and asked my older sister, "what does that mean?" She didn't know either. She only knew that they were a religious group. They were the Mennonites, I later learned.

Then many years later, as I became saved, there was a lady who practiced the covering, but wore hats. She saw I was interested in this and tried to teach me. I wasn't really convicted at that point. Although I did cover with a hat at church for years.

Then one day I decided to stop wearing it as we had moved to a very liberal church, where no one covered. Some time later, my husband said he thought I should start covering again. I said "sure if you think that I should." So once again I started to study the issue.

Long story short, I found a website that had a debate on it covering this very issue. I became convinced that not only

should I cover at worship but all of the time. So now I cover full time and I feel so blessed by this.

It was difficult covering full time at first, but something that helped me was we once again found a conservative group to worship with and I do have one other lady in our congregation who covers with the veil . I don't know if she covers full time but I don't think she does. I am very comfortable with the decision to cover full time as I believe that is what Paul is teaching. True conviction helps you stick with it. I've been very blessed by this decision.

-Barbara

I mentioned earlier in this book that I was a Christian for many years before I began practicing the head covering. I got saved at 10pm, November 18, 1995. I began reading the Bible that night, and have continued on, reading it over and over, and will always do so, as long as I am able.

I always felt a scary sensation in the pit of my stomach when I came across 1 Corinthians 11. Like I mentioned earlier, I had never seen anyone cover before, so I wasn't even sure what it looked like. I wondered if I should just cut a square of cloth and put it on my head, but I didn't want to look ridiculous, and didn't even know if that was "correct." I personally didn't see anyone cover, or know of anyone who did, until the 2000s.

I would cling to verse 15, and claim my long hair as my covering, but I always had a fear that that wasn't correct. Since I didn't see anyone else covering, I thought it had to be the hair, or it wasn't for today. I would push it out of my mind, until I got around to reading the chapter again, and then the same internal turmoil would start up again – every time.

In 2009 I came across a blog post someone wrote, that had some convincing arguments, and lead me to some videos on YouTube. Those videos

squashed my long hair argument, and I knew I had to study out the issue right away. I put the kids on homeschool break, planned very quick and simple meals, and dropped most of my cleaning and baking. With my husband's blessing, I ended up studying the issue for two weeks. I barely slept, or did anything else. I needed the answer – the correct one. If I was supposed to be covering my head, I had to know so, and also why, how, and when.

I took my studies and findings to my husband, and he went over them with me. He reached the same conclusion I did.

The next section in this book is an article I wrote, from my research findings. I've updated the article a bit over the years, but it is still largely like it was, when originally written in 2009.

Should Christian Women Cover Their Heads?



I've been all over this issue, and I studied it from as many different angles as I could.

I've looked at it from the viewpoint that the covering is the woman's hair, the covering is only the spiritual covering of the husband, the covering is not for today, or that the covering is for today, and should be observed. Which is right? I don't want man's traditions, nor do I care if women covered in history. I only care about what God wants. I don't care if the church I attend agrees with it or not, and if I cover, I don't care if I'm the only one in the world to do so. If God's Word says to do it, then I'm in.

If a woman is to cover her head - what with? Don't give me man's traditions or historical settings. I just want the Word of God, and that alone.

Well ladies, let's get into the Word of God and get to the bottom of this issue, shall we? Please open your King James Bible to 1 Corinthians chapter 11, verses 2-16.

2Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

3But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth

his head.

5But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

6For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man.

9Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

10For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

11Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

13Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Look at verse 3. This is giving us the headship order. The husband is the head of the woman. There are clearly two 'heads' in the headcovering Scriptures. There is the spiritual head, which is the authority, and then there's the physical head.

The spiritual head:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." -Ephesians 5:22-23

The physical head:

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head {physical head} uncovered dishonoureth her head {authority - husband}: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered {on her physical head}, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." 1 Corinthians 11:5-6

If the above were referring to just the spiritual/authoritative head, then why should a woman be shaved or shorn if not covered? What in the world would her hair have to do with it? Do you see the two heads? They are clearly the physical head, and the spiritual head, which stands for authority.

In verse 3, we see that the woman's husband is her spiritual head. What about unmarried women? When a woman is not married, if she is still living at home, then her father is her authority - he is the one taking care of her, and while she is under his roof, she is to submit to him. The single woman who is living on her own is not under the headship of her father, because he is no longer taking care of her - she is on her own. Therefore, until she marries, if she does, her spiritual head is Christ:

"There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband." -1 Corinthians 7:34

Let us move on. Verse four makes it clear that there are the two heads - the spiritual and physical, else one would have to seriously allegorize this verse, instead of taking it at face value. This verse also makes it clear that the headcovering is not hair, else all Christian men should be bald when they pray. For a man to take off his hair when he prays or prophesies is not what this verse is obviously talking about. 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 is referring to a physical headcovering that sits on top of the hair.

Now look at verses 5 and 6. In verse 5, notice that if a woman prophesies without a covering on her head, then she is dishonoring her spiritual head - her husband. This jives perfectly with other Scriptures, such as the following:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." -1 Corinthians 14:34-35

Your women - men are being instructed here to remind their wives to stay silent in church. We wives like to discuss the sermon, and we need to do so when we are at home, not during church. Women are to be silent in church to show submission to their husbands.

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." -1 Timothy 2:11-14

This Scripture is referring to the same thing as 1 Corinthians 14:34-35. Women are to learn silently and continue being under the headship/subjection of their husbands. A woman is not to usurp authority over THE man - her husband. Notice it says "the man," and not men. Ladies, we are under the headship of our own husbands, and not all men. This is a family order, not a societal one:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." -Colossians 3:18

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." - Ephesians 5:22

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." -1 Peter 3:1-2

Women are not to be leaders in the church. This is clear from 1 Timothy chapter 3, where we are told that church leaders are to be "the husband of one wife." Obviously, that would be a man.

Women are permitted to pray and prophesy in church, but when they do, they are to wear a headcovering, showing that they are doing so under the headship of their husbands, and are still in submission to their husbands in all things:

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her {physical} head uncovered dishonoureth her head {or husband - authoritative head}: for that is even all one as if she were shaven."

It's a shame for women to be shaven, and it's also considered a shame for women to have short hair. A woman's hair is "a glory to her," as we see in verse 15.

In verse 6, the headcovering issue goes even deeper, and gives us more clarification. We see in this verse, combined with verse 5, that it is a shame for a woman to be shaven or shorn, and it is also a shame for her not to be covered. This is clearly referring to a covering on top of the hair - "if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn."

Let's move on to verses 7-9. Here we see why women are to cover. It's because of the creation order and the headship. Adam was formed first, then Eve. Adam and Eve were both created in the image of God:

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." -Genesis 1:27

Woman wasn't made directly from the clay of the earth, but was taken from man's side. She was created to be her husband's helpmeet - Women are God's gift to men - literally:

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." -Genesis 2:18

"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and

brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." -Genesis 2:21-24

This is why the woman is to be under the headship of her husband. She was created for that purpose. Why do you think we're natural nurturers?

Obviously, a woman can't help her man, if she is silent all the time. We have such Scriptures as 1 Corinthians 14:35 and 1 Peter 3:1-2 (conversation doesn't mean just talking, but your conversation with the world, via your actions and attitudes as well.)

Now, the mystery verse - verse 10. I'm going to tell you what I think that verse means...

"For this cause ought women to have power on their heads" - in other words - For this reason ought women to have authority on their heads. The reason women are to be in submission to their spiritual heads, and cover their physical heads, is because of what we just read in the preceding verses - because of the creation order, as we just discussed. The second half of verse 10 says "because of the angels." This is part of the creation order reason.

I'm not going to get really extensive with this, but read Genesis chapter 6, verse 4. These were some of the 1/3 fallen angels, who sided with Lucifer in trying to take over heaven. Lucifer/Satan, and the angels that followed him, were kicked out of the third heaven. Some of those fallen angels copulated with women, and created demonic half-breeds. This is also partially why Noah's flood occurred. Noah was chosen for two reasons - 1) He walked with God, and 2) He was pure in his generations (didn't have a corrupted bloodline). Ham's wife, however, was not, but I'm not going to get into that today. I believe the post-flood giants came through a gene carried by Ham's wife.

Angels watch us - both the fallen ones and the godly ones do. The fallen angels see the headcoverings on us, and see that we are showing that we are in submission to our spiritual head - our husbands. In the Bible, the word "watchers" can be used for angels. You'll see that was a term in the book of Daniel, for example.

Moving on... Verses 11 and 12 remind us that yes, Adam was created first, and woman was formed from Adam's rib, but also that men come from women, via childbirth. These verses go wonderfully with the following:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." -Galatians 3:28

Women are not viewed as less than men in God's eyes, and they shouldn't be in our eyes either. For order to remain, authoritative order must be established. The husband is not better than the wife. Instead, he is just given a different role. Husbands are commanded in the Bible to love their wives as Christ loves the church:

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" -Ephesians 5:25

Husbands are not to be bitter towards their wives:

"Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." -Colossians 3:19

If husbands don't treat their wives the way God desires them to, then their prayers could be hindered:

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." -1 Peter 3:7

Ladies, we have it easy. We just have to be our husband's helpmeets and submit to them. But the husbands are commanded to love us just as Christ loved the church, are not allowed to be bitter toward us, and if they mistreat us, their prayers could be hindered!

Obviously, we are fallen creatures, and we mess up. If you feel your husband isn't being the Scriptural husband, then take it to God, and don't nag your other half. Listen - you just need to focus on YOU following God, and being the submissive helpmeet God desires you to be. When you truly do this, and give this up to God, you will see miracles worked in your family. God will honor you for honoring Him, and He will speak to your husband's heart. Have faith, follow the Lord, and be patient.

Next verse - verse 13. This verse tells us to judge in ourselves if it's proper for a woman to pray to God without her head covered. If we paid attention to verses 5 and 6, then we would all judge in ourselves that it is not comely, or proper, for women to pray to God uncovered.

Verses 14 and 15 are parenthetical verses to answer the question put forth in verse 13. In the example, it is shown how we see that it is not proper for men to have long hair, or for women to have short hair. This is to be compared to head coverings. In other words, just as it's not proper for men to have long hair, and for women to have short hair, it is also not proper for women to be uncovered. Woman's hair is not to replace the headcovering. The woman is to have two coverings - her long hair, and a covering on top of the hair. This is evident from verse 6:

"For if the woman be not covered {with a headcovering}, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered."

Even with the above explanation, verse 15 still trips many people up. I will quote it below, but with the Greek word for covering inserted. I'm going to show you something very interesting here:

"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering {pe-rē-bo'-lī-on}."

Note: Notice the above verse says **a** covering, not *the* covering. The hair is a covering, but the headcovering that sits on top of the hair is *the* covering.

The Greek word for covering in verse 15, is different than the Greek word for covering in the rest of the chapter. All other occurrences of covering in chapter 11 is kā-tā-kā-lū'p-tō, which literally means "to cover up."

While forms of kata/katakalypto are used for our word cover, covered, and covering in chapter 11, the Greek for the word covering in verse 15 is different. That word is perebolion, which literally means 'a covering thrown around, like a veil.'

This is why the King James Translators put an alternate translation for perebolion in the margin, which was "veil." Using the King James

Translators' alternate translation for perebolion, verse 15 would read as follows:

"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a veil."

A veil wraps around. Long hair wraps around our shoulders. A headcovering sits on our head, and covers.

If we are intellectually honest, then we have to admit that verse 15 isn't telling us *hey, don't worry about covering your head. If your hair is long, that counts as a covering*. This cannot be the case, for an entirely different Greek word is being used. Our hair is a natural veiling, but we are supposed to wear a head covering on top of our hair, and that is our headcovering.

Now - verse 16... It may be easier to understand verse 16 if we read it straight from verse 13, without reading the parenthetical verses 14 and 15. If we did this, it would say the following:

"Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

When read this way, it appears that there is no church custom for women to pray uncovered.

When Should Women Cover?

We know we are most certainly supposed to cover in church, and while praying and prophesying, therefore we can conclude that it's best to cover all of the time, since the Bible elsewhere tells us to "pray without ceasing." Further, prophesying doesn't just mean foretelling the future, but can also mean teaching from the Scriptures. Do you and your husband share what you've learned from the Bible with each other, and other people? Do you have devotions and Bible studies with your children? Do you speak to them about God? Then you should have your head covered. It sounds to me like the best course of action is to have your head covered at all times, so that you are always ready.

Covering is a submission and heart issue. I don't believe that we have to

cover while in the shower, doing certain sports and strenuous exercise, or while asleep. I believe that the headcovering is for public dressing. It is an outward symbol, showing our submission to our husbands. The Lord doesn't need that symbol, as he sees our hearts. The symbol is there as a sign to the angels, and as a testimony in this fallen world.

What about maidens, and unmarried women?

I believe they should be covered as well, to show their submission to their current heads - being their fathers, or Christ directly, as discussed earlier in this article.

How much of the head or hair should the covering cover?

We are not told in the Bible how much to cover, or what type of covering to use. From the covering ladies I have conversed with over the internet, the type of covering used seems to be a personal thing between the woman, her husband, and God. Some women feel that God has called them to cover all of their hair, so they do. I don't feel such a calling.

Scripture seems to allude to woman's hair showing. I lean toward the side that the woman can choose which covering she wants, just as long as it's on top of the head, and it can be seen as a headcovering, and not just as some cute hair accessory.

1 Corinthians 11:15 tells us that a woman's hair is a glory to her, and we see elsewhere in Scripture that Christians are to let their lights shine. I can see a parallel here, but not a spiritual or salvation one. If my hair is my glory, why would I cover it?

Some people would say that I should cover it for modest reasons. Here's what the Bible says in regards to modesty and hair:

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array" -1 Timothy 2:9

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel" -1 Peter 3:3

Why would women's hairstyles even be discussed at all, if all hair was to be covered? It'd be a non-issue, wouldn't it?

Let's get some headcoverings...

At Wal-Mart, you can get a square bandana for 1 dollar, the last I checked. Bandanas and scarves are usually near the purses and belts; often near the changing rooms.

Take a square bandana, and fold it in half into a triangle, and then put it on your hair, but instead of tying the ends under your chin (such as you might do if you were going out on a windy day) tie the ends under your hair.

Or, you could use a long, rectangular scarf. I've seen some very pretty ones at Wal-Mart for about 3-5 dollars. With a scarf, you can better adjust how wide of a covering you want. Here's how I suggest you wear one - but this is just my preference:

- 1) Squish the thickness of the scarf so that it's thinner.
- 2) Now tie the ends under your hair, as if you were tying on a headband.
- 3) Next, stretch out the scarf on top of your head, until you get it as wide as you'd like it.

Wal-Mart also carries some headcoverings in their hair accessories section from time to time. I picked a black one, for about \$3.50. They called it a wide headband, but it covered all of the top of my head, and down the back a bit. I've also gotten headcoverings like this from dollar stores, and Alco.

Other Headcovering Scriptures

I've seen people use Genesis 24:65 and Isaiah 47:1-3 as some supporting Scriptures:

"For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself." -Genesis 24:65

"Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the

ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man." -Isaiah 47:1-3

Here is another Scripture, which gels more with 1 Corinthians 11. It is the following:

"And the priest shall set the woman before the LORD, and uncover the woman's head, and put the offering of memorial in her hands, which is the jealousy offering: and the priest shall have in his hand the bitter water that causeth the curse" -Numbers 5:18

This is referring to a woman who is accused of committing adultery.

Between Numbers 5:18 and Isaiah 47:1-3 we see that uncovering a woman's head was considered shameful. This goes with the following:

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." -1 Corinthians 11:5-6

Head Covering FAQ

Since I've embraced obeying the Lord and covering my head, many people have presented some great questions to me. I have decided to compile those questions into the Questions and Answers section you see below.

Q. Why do you cover your head?

A. I cover my head because I believe the Bible says I am supposed to. By covering my head, I am reminded that my husband is my authoritative head, and I am to joyfully submit to him. In doing this, I am also submitting to my Heavenly Father.

Q. When do you cover your head?

A. I cover my head both in and out of church, both in public, and while at home.

Q. Isn't head covering just for when you are in church?

A. I have covering friends who believe that, but I personally disagree. There is nothing in the head covering passage that says we are only supposed to cover during church meetings. In fact, the passage states that women are to cover their heads whenever they pray or prophesy, and also to show their submission to their husbands. I'm not only submissive to my husband just in church, and I don't only pray and prophesy just in church. I am to submit to my husband in and out of church, and I pray through out the day, therefore I am covered in and out of church, both. Further, a few verses after the head covering passage, it says, "when ye come together in the church." If the head covering were an in-church directive only, then the above quoted section would not be needed, when introducing the next topic.

Q. What do you cover your head with?

A. I often cover with bandannas, but also enjoy scarves, tichels, convertible covers, wide headbands, and various pre-made coverings.

Q. Should all of the hair be covered?

A. Some women feel compelled to cover all of their hair, but I do not. Other

Scriptures in the Bible talk of women's hairstyles, and keeping the styles modest. This would be a moot point, if all of the hair is supposed to be covered.

Q. Should men cover their heads?

A. No. In fact, the Bible specifically says men are not to practice the head covering.

Q. What about when men wear hats? Aren't they head covering, then?

A. If a man is wearing a hat in order to practice the head covering, then he is wrongly head covered. However, if he is wearing a hat as an accessory, or to keep the sun out of his eyes, then he is not head covering, he is just wearing a hat.

Q. What about women who don't consider themselves as practicing the head covering, but they wear a bandanna over their hair because of having a "bad hair day?" Are they then head covered, regardless if they know it or not?

A. No. A woman can wear a hat, scarf, bandana, etc, and not be practicing the head covering. In these cases, those are not head coverings, but just accessories. They are only head coverings if the woman is wearing them specifically for that purpose.

Q. Isn't head covering legalistic, and now we have freedom in Christ?

A. Legalism is when a Christian is trying to keep the Old Testament ceremonial laws in addition to the New Testament, of which 2 Corinthians 3 says spiritually blinds them. You may be surprised to learn that the head covering was not a command anywhere in the Old Testament. It was a custom then, but not a command. The Old Testament custom had both men and women covering their heads while praying. There was no mediator between God and man, then. Now, we have Christ, our High Priest and Mediator, so men no longer are to cover, under the New Covenant. The head covering is a New Testament Command, demonstrating the headship order, of God - Christ - Man - Woman. Only Christian women are to cover, demonstrating that their heads are their husbands. Again, head covering was an Old Testament custom, but it is a New Testament Command.

Q. Where in the Bible does it say women are supposed to cover their heads?

A. 1 Corinthians chapter 11, verses 2-16.

Q. Wasn't the head covering for back then, and is not for today?

A. Let me answer your question by presenting a question to you. The chapter the head covering is commanded in, is 1 Corinthians 11. Also in that same chapter is the command of taking the Lord's Supper. Is the Lord's Supper still for today? Yes, because the chapter says we are to do this to show the Lord's death until He comes back. The Lord's Supper Command comes up right after the head covering command. Therefore, since we are still supposed to partake in communion, the head covering is also still valid for today.

Q. Wasn't the head covering just for the church at Corinth?

A. Why would they get a special command, that the other churches didn't get? Did they need a special lesson in headship or humility? All the commands in all the Epistles are for all Christians. Further, the book of 1 Corinthians is written to ALL Christians, not just to the church at Corinth, as is clearly stated in 1 Corinthians 1:2. Further, if the head covering command were viewed as a command to just the Corinthians, then one would also have to say the Communion is a command to just the Corinthians as well, and we know that isn't the case, so nor is it with the head covering practice.

Q. Doesn't 1 Corinthians 11:3 define the head in this passage as the husband, and therefore if the wife is submissive to her husband, she is symbolically covering her head?

A. Verse 3 gives the headship order, introducing one of the reasons why the woman must cover her head. Her husband is her authoritative head, therefore she physically covers her head to show that. 1 Corinthians 11 clearly distinguishes two types of heads - the authoritative head, and the physical head. If you look at verses 5 and 6, you'll see the physical head being discussed.

Q. Doesn't 1 Corinthians 11:15 tell us that women's long hair is her head covering?

A. I tried to use that one as a reason for my not head covering for so many years. What would always bother me about that argument, however, is that if long hair is the head covering, then why have so many verses before verse 15 stating that a woman needs to wear a head covering? Verses 14 and 15 are parenthetical verses, using nature as an example to answer the question put forth in verse 13. Verse 13 asks if it's proper for a woman to pray without a head covering. Then, verses 14 and 15 use nature as an example to show us that just like it's unnatural and therefore not proper for a woman to have short hair, and a man to have long hair, so it is also not proper for a woman to pray with her head uncovered. With verses 14 and 15 being parenthetical, we can take verses 13 and 16 together to get the direct question and answer, where verse 13 asks if it's proper for a woman to pray without a head covering, and verse 16 answers it is not.

Further, the Greek for the word "covering" in verse 15 is an entirely different word than the Greek used for covering in the rest of the chapter. In verse 15, the Greek word for covering means a veil, or something that wraps around, while the Greek word used for covering in the rest of the chapter means something that sits on top of the head, and covers. The King James Translators gave an alternate translation for the word "covering" in verse 15, and that alternate translation is "veil." Every word in the Bible counts. Notice also in verse 15 that it says "**a** covering," and not 'the covering.' This is because long hair is **a** covering, which can wrap around, like a veil, while the head covering that we are to put on top of our heads is *the* covering. See verses 5 and 6.

Q. If the head covering is for today, then why aren't most Christian women, and most churches practicing it?

A. Most people are ignorant of the Scriptures, even though they are freely and easily attainable to most. How many times have you read the Bible? If you are diligent, then you would answer that you've read it multiple times. However, if you are like the average person walking around, you've never read the whole Bible through even once. Many people trust their church to teach them what's in the Bible, but most of what's in the Bible never reaches the pulpit. It's *our* responsibility to read the Word of God, and learn it for ourselves. Let us not try to pawn that off on someone else.

It's not surprising that most churches today do not practice the covering. Most churches today also partake in Mystery Babylonian holidays, such as

"Christmas" and "Easter." There is a darkness, backsliding, and ignorance in today's churches. You can make a difference. You can decide to follow the Word of God, instead of culture, and cover your head. Perhaps you standing up will encourage others to do so, as well.

Q. What were the beliefs of the earlier church on head covering? Did many earlier churches practice it at all?

A. From what I've read, the early church did indeed head cover. You can also look online and see old paintings and pictures of head covering women. Head covering was still somewhat common to many churches until the 1960s. In came the feminist movement, and out went head covering and modest dresses, it seems.

Q. What about churches in other countries? What do they do about the head covering?

A. I've read and listened to missionary reports of women covering in other countries, and wondering why the churches in the U.S. don't seem to follow 1 Corinthians 11. Google it; depending on which country you want to research.

Q. I'm convinced I should be covering my head. How do I begin, right away?

A. First, pray to God, and thank Him for revealing His will for you. Next, grab a bandanna. If you don't have one, most Wal-Marts carry them near the purses and belts for one dollar per bandanna, and there are a lot of pretty ones to choose from. My current favorite is a purple gingham one. Or, if you have a scarf, or old shirt, you can use that. A scarf can be folded into a covering, wide enough to cover the top of your head, and then tied under your hair. You could take an old shirt, and cut it into a triangle, then sew in the edges so you don't have rough, stringy edges, then tie that under your hair, like a bandanna.

Q. I believe in the head covering, but when I asked my husband, he said he didn't want me to do it. Now what?

A. Now you need to pray that the Lord will soften his heart. Ask your husband if he'll listen to the reasons why you want to cover, along with

Scriptures. Read him things online that helped you decide, and show him pictures of various types of head coverings online. Try wearing just a wide headband, and have your hair down and styled femininely. If he doesn't mind that, then the real problem is probably that he's afraid you'll lose your femininity, and he wants you to still look fresh and nice.

Q. I've started covering my head, but my husband says I look ridiculous/like a chemo patient/like a gypsy. He doesn't like them. What do I do now?

A. It sounds like he just doesn't like the style of covering you have chosen. If you are covering all of your hair, a lot of men don't like that with their wives, because it can be harder to appear feminine in your husband's eyes. Try a convertible covering, bandanna, or just a simple, wide headband. Wear your hair down when covering, and that may make a big difference. You may want to bring up pictures of women in various types of coverings online, and show them to your husband, and ask him what type he would like to see you in. Show him the pictures from Garlands of Grace, and see if he likes those styles of coverings.

Q. I'm new to head covering, but have not ventured to do it outside of my home, yet. I'm scared of what people will think, or how they will react. What do you suggest?

A. If you're a Christian, then you already don't fit in. What does it matter what others think of you? It's what God thinks. Go out there, and hold your head up high. You're a child of God.

Q. I am going to start covering my head. No one else in my church head covers. What do I say when they ask my why I have this thing on my head?

A. I am blessed to be in company with some other head covering ladies in my church, but previous churches I attended had no one covering, except for me. I've only had someone at those churches come up to me on one or two occasions. For the most part, no one said anything to me. One person, who came up to me, said, "you know, you don't have to wear that, your hair is your covering." I told him I disagreed, and explained why. It was quick and simple. Another time, another person came up to me, and asked my why I wear these things on my head. I told him because of 1 Corinthians 11, and it turned out he was not at all familiar with that passage. He turned to it in his Bible, bookmarked it, and said he was going to read it later. He said he had

no idea that was in the Bible. If someone asks you why you have a head covering on, just tell them why you cover. Give them your reasons, and direct them to 1 Corinthians 11.

Q. I've been head covering for a while now, but lately my friends/family/fellow church attendees have been picking on me about it. They say it's not for today, that I look like a nun, and more. I am firm about the Bible's stance on the head covering, and I know I'm doing the right thing, but how do I handle these people? I feel like they are tearing me down, little by little.

A. Don't worry about it, and don't take it personally. Sometimes when a person picks at you for something, it's because they are unsure themselves. Stand up for what the Bible teaches, and politely tell them you are following the Scriptures. You can do it. :-)

Q I feel like covering my head draws attention to me. Aren't we supposed to not have any attention on us? What do I do with this attention?

A. On the contrary, the Bible says that Christians are to let their lights shine in this dark, fallen world. When you turn on a light in a dark room, the light draws some serious attention, doesn't it? Wearing a head covering *to* draw attention would mean your heart is not in the right place. Wearing a head covering, because you are obeying God, regardless if it draws attention to you - that's a heart in the right place. I regularly get people asking me if I'm Amish, Mennonite, or Holiness Pentecostal. Or, sometimes people just ask me what religion I am, and keep it simple. I am of no denomination (denominations are condemned in 1 Corinthians 1). My answer is that I'm a Bible Believing Christian. The next question is usually what church I go to, etc. When people come up to you and ask questions, that is a great icebreaker for fellowship, or telling someone the Gospel message. Consider it a privilege.

Q. Candy, how long have you been covering your head?

A. I started head covering in 2009.

Q. Candy, what made you decide to start practicing the head covering?

A. I always felt strange whenever I read 1 Corinthians 11. I tried to explain it

away, and then one day I faced the fact that none of my arguments held any water. I did the research, and took the Scriptures at face value. What a relief, to finally just do it, instead of fighting it.

Q. I don't know if I should cover or not. I keep wavering. What do you suggest I do?

A. Pray, study 1 Corinthians 11, and do your own research.

Q. What are some of the blessings you feel you have gotten since practicing the head covering?

A. I have more of a measure of spiritual protection than I did before.

I am treated more politely.

People come up to me and ask me questions, which is a great icebreaker.

I am happy to be following the will of God. The covering reminds me to be in submission to my husband, and I love submitting to him (most of the time) because I trust and love him very much, and he is a wonderful husband.

I am treated more like a lady, instead of like a potential feminist. Doors are opened for me more often, I am called 'ma'am,' men offer to return my cart for me at the store, etc.

One time, I was walking towards the door to exit a gas station, and a big, hairy man clad in leather and tattoos was somewhat blocking the door. As I approached, he moved out of the way, opened the door, did a slight bow, and nicely said 'ma'am.' That was neat.

One day, the kids and I were out walking, and there was a church van driving around. The man driving it stopped, and gave us a flyer to a park where his church was having a party, praise, and sermon at the park. It sounded fun, so we went. The man on the microphone there stopped talking, looked right at me, and then said "it's so nice that people from other religions have come to join us today." Huh! LOL. That was a good laugh.

In my experience, there have been far more blessings than not, in practicing

the head covering.

If you are considering head covering, just give it a try, and you'll notice your own blessings.

What About Your Husband?

What about if your husband doesn't want you to wear the covering, or he doesn't like the coverings you are wearing, or he isn't even a Christian?

First off, the Bible says we are to submit to our husbands, and it gives no stipulation of the husband having to be a Christian, first. The wife's husband is her head, regardless if he is currently saved, or not. Therefore, if you have an unbelieving husband, the covering does still apply to you, as well as to us with saved husbands.

Often, when a husband doesn't want his wife to cover, it's for one of the following reasons:

- 1) He doesn't see that the covering is supposed to be practiced
- 2) He doesn't like how you look in coverings, or how they look on you
- 3) He doesn't want to be embarrassed and have you sticking out, when you and he go places, or when people he knows sees you

There are other reasons, but from the people I've conversed with, the above seem to be some fairly common reasons.

For reason number 1, set aside some time where you can show your husband your research, and you can explain to him why you desire to cover your head. Also, for reasons two and three, and possibly for the reason one husband, assure him you will not wear any head coverings he doesn't like or doesn't approve of.

You are covering your head to honor your authoritative head, so if your authoritative head does not like the style of covering you are wearing, then change it.

Some men haven't seen any types of head coverings they like, and may therefore not want you to cover. While this may sound shallow, let us remember that men are visual, and as their wives, we should strive to be visually pleasing to them.

In cases like the above, try a wide headband. Even if you just end up covering with a wide headband from the store, that just covers just the top of your head, that is something.

Here is a picture of a wide headband I have, that I think most husbands would find pretty and feminine on their wives, yet it works as a head covering:



As you can see, the above example is pretty, and feminine, but still a head covering. I placed my hand by the covering, with it spread out, so you can see how wide it goes.

What is nice about wide head band head coverings, is that you can fold them in to make them thinner, or have them completely wide. Play around with feminine style wide head bands, and see what your husband thinks.

With some husbands, it may be best to just put on a wide head band head covering, without asking first, and then show him, and ask if he likes it, and go from there.

You may be wondering where I got the above-pictured head covering. I got it from Wal-Mart. Believe it or not, Wal-Mart is my main head covering provider.

You can often find wide head band coverings in the hair accessories section, near the shampoos. I have found that you can often find even more wide head bands in the accessories section, near the purses, belts, jewelry, and sunglasses. That's the section I got the above, and several other wide head band coverings from, recently.

My husband likes triangle and wide head band coverings, so most of my coverings are wide head bands and bandanas. Sometimes I enjoy folding and wearing tichels, or square scarves, for something different, but only in styles my husband has approved.

When I first learned that I should be covering my head, I studied it out to make sure. Then, I brought my studies to my husband, and he looked into it. He agreed that I should cover my head. We then went to various online head covering websites, and looked at pictures of different types of coverings, and my husband picked out the types of coverings he'd like me to wear, and showed me the types he would not like.

If it would be easier, you can read part or all of this book to your husband, and then show him the head covering pictures in the next section, and see if he finds any styles pictured that he'd like on you.

I would suggest this, if you have realized you need to cover, but your husband isn't in the same boat. I am blessed in that my husband is a born again Christian, but even if your husband is not a saved Christian, he is still your authoritative head, and you need to honor him by covering your head.

Remember, a woman not covering her head is dishonoring her husband:

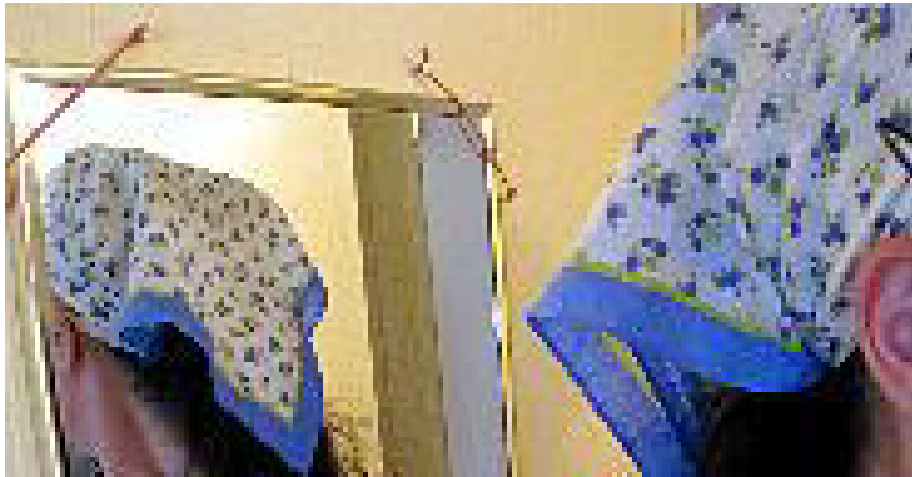
But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. –1 Corinthians 11:5

Head Covering Styles

I often wear square bandanas for head coverings. I don't wear the paisley ones too often, but stick to the colors and patterns that are more soft or feminine, and don't look at all gang related. To wear a bandanna as a triangle covering, simply fold the bandana diagonally in half, into a triangle. Tie it on, like you are going out on a windy day. Tie it under your hair.

Use a few clippie barrettes, one on each side, near or below your temples, to secure the covering in place.

Here is a bandana, worn as a triangle covering:



You can wear bandanas in different styles. You are not stuck with just the triangle. If you don't want the covering to flare out at the sides at all, and you don't want the point, then tie the point into a knot. Below is another bandana I have, with a knot tied in the triangle:



Another style you can do with a bandana, is to tie a knot in each of the four corners, then place it on top of your head, tucking the two top knots underneath, and leaving the two bottom knots out:



I will share one more bandana head covering style with you. You can wear it like a wide headband. Fold two opposite corners in, then fold the whole thing in half, to the thickness you want, then tie it under your hair:



The above style may stand up a bit in the back. If so, just use a clippie barrette or two to pin it down.

You can also shop online, and purchase pre-made head coverings. These come in all sorts of styles. I have some wide head bands, veils, and triangles:



Here is a wide head band covering I got from the hair accessories section at Wal-Mart:



Here is a triangle covering I purchased online:



And here is a veil type covering I also purchased online:



A lot of women prefer to use scarves, or Jewish tichel scarves for head covering. I have a few of these as well, and wear them from time to time.



You can research online about various tichel and scarf styles; there are a LOT out there, and many instruction sites and videos to view, as well. Just make sure that if you use tichels or scarves, you wear them in styles your husband approves. Many men do not like for their wives to cover all of their hair.

If you have been showing the above pictures to your husband, but he doesn't like any of the styles, then he may prefer for you to wear a head band just on the top of your head. Try that. It is a good starting point.

Perhaps he'd like one like this:



The above wide head band doesn't cover as much as the other above styles, and therefore makes this a good starter covering, especially if your husband is uncomfortable with other styles. I got the above covering from Wal-Mart, in the accessories section, near the watches and jewelry.

Dress to Bless in Your Christian Success

I just had to title this last section that, because I like the rhyme. ☺

Dear reader, if you are a Christian woman who was considering covering her head, or already do cover, I hope this book helped you out. Head covering is not the only way a Christian woman shows her submission and respect for her husband, but she should also show it in how she acts, and dresses.

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array -1 Timothy 2:9

Women should dress modestly.

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. – Proverbs 31:22

Women's clothing should also be beautiful and feminine.

The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God. –Deuteronomy 22:5

The woman should dress like a woman.



Whether you began reading this book being for, or against head covering, I hope there was something written in here that blessed you.

Don't take anyone's word for what the Bible says. Open it, and read it for yourself. Once you've read the whole Bible, turn back to page one, and start again. Read and re-read the Word of God. It is spiritual bread for the Christian soul. Just as we have nourishment from our food each day, we can get spiritual nourishment from reading God's Holy Word.

If you are not sure you are a Christian, then please study carefully the below Scriptures.

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one -Romans 3:10

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God -Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. -Romans 6:23

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. –
John 3:16

Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins. When we accept this gift, and receive Jesus into our hearts and lives as Lord, and confess this to others, then He saves us. It's as simple as that.

If you've never read the Bible before, please read the Gospel of John. That is the fourth book in the New Testament. After that, read Acts, then Romans. Those two books follow John.

God bless you in your journey, on your Christian walk with God, sisters.
Happy Covering!

